

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

RE: Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Third Report and Order - MB Docket No. 05-311

Dear FCC:

Under this scheme of "fair market value" access stations may end up not only returning the community television funding from companies like ComCast and Verizon, they may owe them more after that. Who is to say the "value" of a station if it were to advertise? And so to "protect" the access stations, your rule states the value must be limited to the exact amount awarded in contracts between the towns and the provider (ComCast/Verizon, etc.). That specific sounds like this is a simple scheme to get the video provider companies like ComCast out of separate and hard fought contracts between municipalities and the video provider. Might we suspect the access stations will, by chance, have a "value" exact to the amount of community access funding awarded in those negotiated contracts?

We are in terrifying times. We need reliable information in communities that show what our local government is doing. Community Access stations cover gavel to gavel meetings, making citizens far more aware of the goings on in their communities. Transparency is the operative word of today and meetings that used to literally take place in the back halls with zero attendance some thirty years ago are now on local television. And rather than having municipal chairmen resent coverage, they ask for it. Do not return us to the the dark and cloaked days of meetings in back rooms. Back to the old normal of business as usual.

Community stations also teach students media and how it operates, giving them viewing sophistication, greatly needed today. It promotes schools events and sports. And community access covers community events and public service events letting citizens know what safety, health, library, senior and municipal services are available in their towns.

Corporate profits are record high. And our democracy is utterly dependent upon information and community television supplies crucial information to towns and cities. Don't kill it. It is so humble yet so important. And the money so low compared to what these companies pull from these towns off their poles.

We know realistically the heads of all our agencies designed to protect the public's interests are almost all today headed by some former employee of the industry they were created to regulate. Inexcusably Net-neutrality was lost despite the public's demand for its retention, damaging the country's wider economics but making cable companies wealthier in the short term.

Shame on you if you pass this too. Shame on you.

Tanya Willow
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